

Fort Sheridan Pumping Station
(Building No. 29)
On the lake front at the eastern terminus
of Nicholson Rd.
Fort Sheridan
Lake County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-5

HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/5-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

FORT SHERIDAN, PUMPING STATION (Building No. 29)

~~FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT~~

Location: On the lakefront at the eastern terminus of Nicholson Road.
Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois.

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 16: 433340. 4674540.

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Present Owner
and Occupant: United States Army.

Present Use: Pumping station and recreational storage area.

Significance: This building served as the original pumping station for Fort Sheridan and has been in continuous use since its construction in 1890. Designed by Holabird and Roche, its attractive appearance with rounded arched windows and doors and a decorative brick frieze is illustrative of the excellent designs and decorative detail provided by these architects for utilitarian structures.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1890.
2. Architect: Holabird and Roche, Chicago.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: Williams and Co. Completed by Andrew Bock and Co., Chicago.
5. Original plan and construction: A long, rectangular, single-story building constructed of buff-cream brick with a gable-on-hip roof. The ridge of the roof runs north-south and the main entrance is in the long side.
6. Alterations and additions: Entrances and windows on the exterior have been modified. A single story brick outbuilding has been constructed adjacent to the south side. The pumping and filtering machinery has been replaced and modernized.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings:

Holabird and Root, 300 West Adams St., Chicago, Illinois. 60606
Plans and elevations, n.d. Drawings are water damaged.

2. Old views:

Views of Fort Sheridan, Record Group 92, Audio Visual Archives,
National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.
ca. 1897. Reference nos. 92-F-61B-8, 92-F-61B-9.

3. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Papers Relating to Fort Sheridan. Office of the Quarter-
master General Consolidated Correspondence Files, 1784-1915
and Office of the Quartermaster General, Construction Divi-
sion, Record Group 92. National Archives and Records
Service, Washington, D.C.

Real Property Records, Directorate of Facilities Engineering,
Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins
Architectural Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A long brick building with rounded
arched doors and windows and a decorative brick frieze. It
shares the Richardsonian Romanesque character of the Holabird
and Roche designs for the other original post buildings.
2. Condition of fabric: The building has been maintained in good
condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The single story building is 161'-4" by 46' with eleven bays across the facade. There is no basement but an underground area for intake equipment is located immediately east of the building.
2. Foundations: Limestone rubble.
3. Wall construction: Buff-cream brick laid in common bond with six rows of stretchers to one of headers.
4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall and metal trussed rafter roof.
5. Chimneys: One brick interior chimney is located at the center of the roof to the front of the ridge.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are four entrances on the facade. Rounded arches of gauged brick are above three of them. The tympanums are now filled with glass brick, and double rectangular steel doors have been installed. The fourth door is a large rectangular vehicular entrance, with a brick-on-edge course above the double wood door. This entrance appears to represent a modification of one of the original doors or windows. It is used to move rental boats in and out of the southern section of the building which is now used as a recreation storage area. At the rear of the building there is a rounded arched entrance with a single steel door. The tympanum has been infilled with glass brick.
 - b. Windows: There are rounded gauged brick arches above the windows. The sills are limestone.

The seven large windows on the facade have been partially infilled with glass brick and sliding glass panels have been installed directly above the sill. The three small windows on the south side have been similarly modified. The windows on the rear of the building have also been altered. Five have been infilled with brick, others have been modified with glass brick and sliding glass panels. Two small lunettes have single glass panes and appear to be unaltered. The windows on the north have been squared off and the arches infilled with brick. There is a rectangular window directly below the eaves.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof is a gable on a hip covered with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: A decorative frieze consists of a projecting stretcher course, a brick-on-edge course with alternating projecting and recessed bricks, another projecting stretcher course, and six rows of double projecting headers in a checkerboard pattern followed by corbeled rows of projecting stretchers.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The pumping station section has small offices and a laboratory in the north section of the building. The pumping equipment takes up the entire central area of the building. The south side of the building is partitioned off creating a recreational storage area.
2. Flooring: Linoleum tile in the office areas and painted concrete in the room containing the pumping equipment.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The brick walls are painted gray. The ceiling is unfinished and the metal trusses are visible.
4. Mechanical equipment: The pumping station equipment has been completely modernized.

The building was constructed with indoor plumbing and steam heat. The present steam heating system relies on oil rather than on coal as it did earlier. Electricity was available to the post as early as 1890, although the original lighting may have been gas.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building faces east toward Lake Michigan. The ridge of the roof runs north-south. The building is situated on the lakefront backed up against the bluffs.
2. Outbuildings: A recently constructed brick transformer house is located immediately adjacent to the building on the south. A concrete transformer house which is no longer in use is built into the bluff behind the building.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under the auspices of Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta and funded by the U.S. Department of Army, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. It included a historical and architectural survey of the fort to provide the necessary data for implementation of the Fort Sheridan Historic District. Documentation was obtained on thirty-one buildings. The survey and documentation were accomplished by Sally Kress Tompkins, an architectural historian on the HABS staff, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth Anderson, Principal Architect; Carolyn Pitts, Principal Historian, and Allen Chambers, architectural historian and editor. The photographs were taken by William Kumpf of Architectural Camera, Chicago.